

Community Development Organization Profile

SOC 375 Community Development – Spring 2024

In this assignment, you will familiarize yourself with a social or economic challenge faced by lower-income or otherwise marginalized communities in the DC area, review strategies in the community development field for addressing this issue, and profile a local organization working on the issue, including an interview with a staff member at the organization.

This assignment includes the following. All together they count toward 45% of your final grade.

- 1) **Select topic** – DUE 1/25 (week 3) by 11am (2%)
- 2) **Select organization** – DUE 2/8 (week 5) by 11am (3%)
- 3) **Background research paper** – DUE 2/22 (week 7) by 11am (15%)
- 4) **Interview** – *No submission. Profile will not be accepted without an interview.*
- 5) **Organization profile** – DUE 3/21 (week 10) by 11am (20%)
- 6) **Presentation** – In class on 3/21 (week 10) (5%)

- 1) **Select topic** – DUE 1/25 (Week 3) by 11am (2%)

Select a social or economic challenge faced by lower-income or otherwise marginalized communities in the DC area. This could be one of the domains we focus on in this class (food, health care, housing, community economic control, education) or other types of community challenges of interest to you (e.g., immigration legal services, domestic violence, youth programming, gender affirming health services, environmental justice). Submit a paragraph identifying your topic and why you've chosen it.

- 2) **Select organization** – DUE 2/8 (Week 5) by 11am (3%)

Select an organization serving DC communities, whose work includes addressing the social or economic challenge you have chosen. Submit a paragraph identifying the organization and why you are interested in their work.

- 3) **Background research paper** – DUE 2/22 (Week 7) by 11am (15%)

This research paper provides context for your profile of a local CD organization and also prepares you for the interview you will conduct. In this paper, you should (1) summarize the community challenge, citing research articles, white papers, grey literature, and print journalism (this part does not need to focus on DC), (2) describe who struggles with the issue in Washington, DC and why, and (3) review strategies being employed to address the challenge in DC and elsewhere. Your background research paper should be between 900 and 1,500 words. Cite a minimum of ten sources in APA style.

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Frames the community challenge, citing research articles, white papers, grey literature, and print journalism.	3
Describes those who struggle with this issue in Washington, DC and why.	3
Reviews strategies used to address the challenge here in DC and elsewhere.	3
Writing style is appropriate for an academic context, demonstrating a clear voice, command of grammar, and with minimal typographical errors. Paper conforms to specified length of 900 - 1,500 words. Sources are properly cited in APA style.	3
At least ten appropriate sources are cited in APA style.	3
Total	15

4) **Interview** – *No submission. Profile will not be accepted without an interview.*

Reach out to the organization you are profiling to arrange a time to visit, if possible, and to schedule an interview with somebody at the organization who can talk to you about their work.

You need to start this process early. It will take more time than you think it should to contact an organization and schedule a visit and interview. Just getting a response can take multiple tries through different channels. If you are having trouble connecting, come talk to me.

Conducting the interview:

- The day before the interview, send an email confirming the interview time. Thank them for their willingness to speak with you.
- At the start of the interview, be sure to confirm that the time still works for them, thank them for their time (again), and clarify how much time they have for this interview.
- In the interview, learn as much as you can about:
 - 1) How, why, and when the organization was founded.
 - 2) The scope of the organization's work today, the populations it serves, and how either of those have changed over time.
 - 3) The sources of funding that support the organization's work.
 - 4) The size of the organization in terms of staff and annual budget.
- At the end of the interview, express your appreciation for their time (again!) and for sharing out of their experience.

5) **Organization profile** – DUE 3/21 (Week 10) by 11am (20%)

Write a 900-1500 word profile of the organization that covers, at a minimum, the questions you pursued in your interview:

- 1) How, why, and when the organization was founded.
- 2) The scope of the organization's work today, the populations it serves, and how either of those have changed over time.
- 3) The sources of funding that support the organization's work.
- 4) The size of the organization in terms of staff and annual budget.

You should also review the organization's website for additional information about the organization and its work and to check for agreement with what you learned in your interview. In your paper, identify the person you interviewed, their role within the organization, and the date you spoke with them. It's important that it is clear in your writing what information came from your interview and what information came from other sources. Conclude your profile with a critically reflective assessment of the organization and its work, demonstrating thoughtful engagement and making connections to experiences or insights from class or your life

A profile without an interview will not be accepted.

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Profile covers the dimensions of the organization specified in the assignment, presenting an integrated and compelling picture of the organization and its work.	9
Paper identifies the person interviewed and the date of the interview, including their position within the organization. (<i>A profile without an interview will not be accepted.</i>)	2
Paper closes with a critically reflective assessment of the organization and its work, demonstrating thoughtful engagement and making connections to experiences or insights from class or the student's life.	3
Writing style is appropriate for an academic context, demonstrating a clear voice, command of grammar, and with minimal typographical errors. Paper conforms to specified length of 900 - 1,500 words.	3
There is clear attribution for all sources of information. Observations, perspectives, or information provided through the interview should be clearly attributed to that person. External sources are properly cited in APA style.	3
Total	20

6) **Presentation** – In class on 3/21 (week 10) (5%)

You will share a 5-7 minute presentation with the class, summarizing what you have learned about the topic and the organization you profiled. Be sure to tell us who you interviewed and also include your critical assessment of the organization and its work. Support your presentation with 3-5 simple and attractive slides.

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>
Presentation is well organized and provides a clear and accessible overview of the organization and its work, including identification of the person interviewed.	3
3-5 slides complement the presenter's spoken words, helping the audience to understand the organization and its work. Word density is kept to a minimum.	1
The presenter speaks in a clear, strong, and engaging voice that is easy to hear and understand.	1
Total	5